simple hearted man. If the Devil came up to him and said "Mr Haughton, I assure you I am one of the most maligned of men. I am honest and good. I am high minded and virtuous. I can't help my horns and my tail. I regret their existence as much as you do" — and then began to weep, James would pity him and would turn round and say, "You see what the Devil says — he says he is maligned — that he is honest and good — that he can't help his horns and his tail — I believe him. It is a shame to be so suspicious." This is the kind of man he is. He is so honest and direct himself that he believes every body's professions and can hardly trust his senses when he sees or hears of people acting shabbily. Father Mathew is not to be compared with James Haughton for real nobility of character — and he is not writing to the fashions there. Immediately on receipt of your letter Hannah wrote to Catherine Paton about the shawls — and we will endeavour to take the hint to ourselves as far as we can. As I said — Dr La Rue's invoice will tell you about the contents of his box — so that you can regulate the prices as you please. It would be a great help to us to know at what rate you lay on your profits on these. The books I send a list of with my notion of their value in America in dollars & cents. The Haughtons have marked their own contributions. By the way they always

127

Ms.A.9.2.24.107

send their gifts in a box nailed up with strict injunctions that it shall not be opened nor disturbed — and we, making no promise, invariably open the box and send the things without it — for they have no idea of the importance of economy of room and they might put three times as much in the box as they do. We take great care ~~that~~ at the same time that their donations shall go together as theirs & that their glory shall not be given to another. Thus you see is a little bit of a case of conscience.

Some ironmongery articles from Mrs Edmundson of Dublin (sister of Eliza Wigham of Edinburgh) you must mark yourselves — as no prices were sent with them, ~~and~~ we don't know them, and the donor is a little bit awful, & wd not like to be intruded on by the like of us who are not rich (the common measure of value) and don't belong to her clique. Some poems written are from Miss Phoebe Mary Henzell of Carrick on Shannon, an enthusiastic young lady who sits beside me this blessed Sunday Evening copying Anti-Slavery Poems. She is an Episcopalian, an only child, a very nice amiable girl, and a huge admirer of Douglass — whom she frequently met in Belfast. By the way she has just said she spells her name Phebe without the oe and says that she thinks the name quite ugly enough without the dipthong. I don't know how that may be — but she is a very gay little body, amiable, comely, & sensible.

She let fall today that she was greatly gratified last year by receipt of a Bill with your name on it. See what a great woman you are. Is it not funny to be asked for our autographs – and to find that with all our humility, some people really look on us as somebody? There is also about to the value of 16 or 17 dollars from my cousin Deborah Moore of Waterford – and another 25 dollars worth in clothing and odds & ends from Maria Waring besides her two dollars in the stationery. You will laugh at me probably for mentioning her so often but this kind of munificence is not common with us whatever it may be with you – and she is so quiet and so silent I can't help staring. Some of the other donors have more than 20 times her means. But as for my wife & myself that beat about for the money & other gifts we do very little in the way of giving one by telling how great is the generosity of another. We are so high minded, you know, that we seem to let down the cause to the level of common charities. I am sure I hope you may get over the Fair with less wear & tear of mind & body & better ~~treatment~~ from the skies than you got last year. The crown of martyrdom may be a very glorious one but I am too selfish to wish you to obtain it yet a while. I would make it a condition that I have a chance of seeing you before you make your adieux.

Among the articles near the top of the box you will find a little grey child's muff – I don't mean that the outer is grey but the wadded is – [illegible] is lined ~~by~~ with crimson silk, it's marked 75 cents, and was made by your namesake my daughter Anne, not yet 11 – She is a little square thing – far from a beauty, but a kind, conscientious, generous little body who has been brought up at the feet of her aunt Maria. I want you to see the child's work - that it may not be whistled away in the multitude of things unnoticed by the eyes of one of "your faction" - You have heard of our Irish faction fights at fairs - from this has resulted a custom in the fighting parts of the country of saying when a man has a good large gathering of relations and friends - that "he has a fine faction." I think that with the lists sent herewith and Hannah's notes with A, B, C, &c. put upon them - and the [illegible] time you will have you can hardly fail to make all our affairs out readily. You will of course have our boxes before November over - & can then check every thing at your ease. We have written to urge the Cork people, but they are generally late and don't like to be tormented - as I have found before now to my cost. There is one piece of trouble I wish you would take, & that is to compare De la Rue's invoice with the contents of the Box - for I am told they are not very precise - and if this be the case, they are likely enough to be less particular where the person who orders the goods has no chance of seeing them except with the eye of faith. It would be very desirable to know that we get the worth of our money. Their traveller assured me every thing should be marked so as to compare & know them readily - and a little exhibition of vigilance on your part would not be thrown away. I think if there be any egregious blunders we could get it rectifie

Ms.A.9.2.24.107

Among other things I send you a few copies of an Index of my Anti Slavery Pamphlets — from which I beg you to infer that if among the rubbish that infests 21. Cornhill (like every such Depository that I know of) there should happen to be any tracts or pamphlets going begging, which are not in my list — I will be greatly pleased by your making them a part of the filling up stuff of any box of sugar plums you may ~~happen~~ send over here to keep your contributors in good humour. This is an unseemly hint, & a very precise person would not give it — but as I am a man of business (in a very small way) it is as well to be extremely candid. You have no Liberty Bell this year — would not a selection of the best anti Slavery Books you have answer ~~your~~ the purpose very well on this occasion — Some of Jay's Books — or Mrs Childs — or Welds American Slavery — You can hardly be namby-pamby enough in your selection — though Weld is by no means so — but I mean the nearer the surface you keep the more likely you are to please many of those you may send to. We have not many in Ireland who read the Liberator — there is not a single copy taken out of Dublin + Waterford that I know of and there are only 4 here. This will enable you to know what sort we are, and how we require to be fed with milk like babes. This is a queer letter with its two kinds of paper — but I found we had only one sheet left of some pretty thin paper I bought in the Chaussée d'Antin under your sister Caroline's guidance — & so had to find in the other remnant of another stock — that also has just come to an end.

Ms. A.9.2.24.107

Hannah has kindly undertaken to read this over — to correct mistakes — cross the t's and dot the i's — and she can tell you whether I have omitted any thing material respecting matters or things. Meanwhile, leaving her to speak for herself I remain Yours ever truly

Richd D Webb

Your sister Caroline is very wrathy with J. G. Whittier — I like his late lines to the Pope particularly. I would like to know whether you think as little of the greatest of Quaker poets that C. does. I am told you are a person of great judgement — so I shall pause impatiently for a reply. I send a few copies of my index in the top of the Box & hope they may come safely to your hands —

Dear Friend, Richard has written so fully on all the little matters connected with our box, that I know not of any thing to add — I hope you will not be puzzled by the multiplicity of directions — it will be well to mention the Misses Haughton whenever you make acknowledgments of receipt of the box — their parcel is valued by them at nearly 50 dollars & contains some excellent articles — the only thing of theirs which I am afraid of being injured is a little seaweed basket, but I packed it up carefully — also dont forget Miss Henzell (whom R. mentions above) she is a truehearted little thing in spite of her orthodoxy which makes it hard for her to bear the comeouterism & freethinking of some of our friends. — I often feel ashamed to think how little Antislavery interest we have created – it seems like keeping good things to ourselves, locking up seedcorn instead of strewing it abroad for harvest. And yet we could not possibly do much in this way, people are so terribly afraid of contamination & heresy, & you cant go far in genuine Antislavery without stumbling over something dangerous. – The Liberators are a great test, but a trying one – This whole matter of father Mathew has been more trying to me than any thing in the paper since the time of Rogers (for I can swallow the heresies freely) – in both cases I know that Garrison is right & I am wrong, & yet I wish to see the man handled more gently – Garrison's heart burns within him, & the truth will not allow him to turn aside to the right hand or the left. He is right; & still I say, Ah poor father Mathew with his benevolence, his advanced years, his infirmities of mind & body I dont like to see him dragged forward – Of course he is a priest still, & what can you expect from a priest? He is sure to fail if called upon to sink his own peculiar dogmas for the sake of any cause however good – Father Mathew set the claims of the Church far above those of his pet cause of temperance, & how can we expect him to do more for Antislavery? – Cry out against priestly influences, against the priestly character, whose bonds make slaves of the best of men who come under this influence. Well, after all there is no use in differing from Garrison, for he is almost always right. – I could forgive him a great deal (great magnanimity!) for the sake of that delightful leading article in one of the late Liberators, "Kossuth & Jesus" – I read it with great delight – it is true Christianity, according to my ideas, and expressed so clearly, lovingly, & powerfully – I felt as if I must write & tell him how it pleased me, & begun a letter but never finished it – The man is above your words, above caring whether you (or any body in the whole universe) approve of what he says – he only stands for the right, & herein is his strength – How infinitely is he above our poor fellowcountryman, Father Mathew –

– Richard had truly a grand time with our friends ~~at Pitts~~ Westvill
– I had the offer of going with him, & feel that I had a great loss
in not doing so, – but at the time it did not feel easy, or
exactly right, for me to leave home. And he was more free
to go hither & thither by himself than if I had been with him – besides
if I had gone I should have been a receiver among all those bright people,
rather than a giver – But I hope to enjoy having them under our roof
after a while, for they are pledged to us on their return. How you
must long for the time of their return, although enjoying their pleasure

The box contains one book not mentioned in the list – a copy
of The Jolly Beggars of Burns, in a facsimile of his handwriting – it is
curious & interesting – Richd – thinks it is worth about 2 dollars, but of
course the price must be decided by what you can get for it –
– Thou wilt see by the lines inscribed that it has been twice given for
love, & it is to be hoped it will now bring a little of the vulgar wealth
of money – Thou wilt recollect Lizzy Poole's name as a donor to your
Bazaar, & sometimes a contributor for the Bell – Her name is now
Addey, being happily married to a quiet steady young man, to the
surprise of almost all her friends – he being one whom we should not have
thought sufficient to satisfy one of her brightness & talent & poetic temperament
– however they are very happy together; but being more limited in outward riches
& not sufficiently established in business to have much to spare, she can't
indulge herself in giving to the Antislavery cause as she would like to do –
– I wish some of us could be with you to give our help at the Fair, &
spare some of the veteran workers – I hope thou wilt let others work this time
& be satisfied to look on & give directions – it wd be bad economy in the
cause to kill off its best friends – Thou sees I keep to the quaker
style of speaking – I often say you when speaking to the "world's people", but
it does not come natural to me – As a matter of taste I admire thou
if it were only good current English, which it is not – but it is diffic
to shake off old associations & habits – May you have a prosperous time at
the Bazaar, & deserve it. Affectionately & respectfully
Hannah Webb

Ms.A.9.2.24.107